

theocratic despot. Moreover, the Corinnethan political establishment had initiated recent efforts to nominate a Gentile candidate for the post of territorial delegate to Congress, create the anti-Mormon Liberal party, and replace Salt Lake City as the seat of territorial government.¹⁹ July 4, 1870, was intended to be more than a patriotic commemoration of national independence in Corinne: locally dubbed "Gentile day," the Fourth was viewed as a celebration of civil liberties and federal authority in a land of ecclesiastical tyranny.²⁰

While the Salt Lake press made no mention of the upcoming contest, the Corinne newspaper referred daily to the game. The *Reporter* waxed eloquent in hyping "the day the covetous champions come together," and in anticipation of "a red-hot game," William Ellis and Franklin Winschell, "the beer king," agreed to supply the players "with the best of lager" during the game.²¹ Unfortunately, the much publicized contest itself is a veritable mystery because of the unavailability of any issues of the *Reporter* for three days after the game; the *Salt Lake Herald* simply noted that Corinne defeated the Enneas by a score of 42-31 in a "closely contested" game in which the lead changed hands several times.²²

The triumph excited the nascent community striving for respect and recognition. With civic pride the *Reporter* proclaimed: "Base Ball is a popular game; aye, a national game, and a popular pastime, and Corinne, ever alive to her popular interests, is evidently taking a decided stand in the front rank of this popular, fashionable, national pastime." Worried that the "easy victory" over the Enneas would make the Corinnes "rather indifferent to the future efficiency," the paper soon exulted that the triumph had actually "awakened a lively interest among the boys of the bat" and that among the apparent champions of the territory "increased efforts to defeat any and everybody of the game's devotees are talked of, and not in a very modest manner either."²³ The braggadocio increased after the Corinne club massacred the previously undefeated team from the Thirteenth Infantry on July 13 by a score of 62-41 in a game marred by a "hurricane" wind and "dust so thick that fre-

¹⁹For religious and political anti-Mormonism in Corinne, see Madsen, *Corinne*, esp. 14-18, 77-84, 93-118, 193-203. See also Robert Joseph Dwyer, *The Gentile Comes to Utah: A Study in Religious and Social Conflict, 1862-1890* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1941).

²⁰*Daily Utah Reporter*, July 4, 1870.

²¹*Daily Utah Reporter*, June 25, 26, 29, 1870.

²²*Salt Lake Daily Herald*, July 6, 1870. The *Deseret Evening News* did not mention the game.

²³*Daily Utah Reporter*, July 8, 1870.



The Thirteenth Infantry from Fort Douglas suffered defeat at the hands of the Corinnes. USHS collections.

quently the ball was lost when near by the fielders." Granting that the soldiers had the "disadvantage of arriving off of a four hundred mile march through the scorching sun and dust," the *Reporter* ungraciously justified running up the score in the middle innings: "we had to try and win the friendly game."²⁴ Not even a formal remonstrance from the Enneas reminding the Corinnes that they were "*not the Champion Club* of Utah nor the Pacific Coast, unless they win the next game" curbed the arrogance. Replied the *Reporter*: "We admit we were a little hasty . . . in claiming the championship until the next game is played, but does anyone doubt the Corinnes are the champions nevertheless?"²⁵

Corinne boosters should have known that the rematch would be no lark, for the Enneas would benefit from a decided home field advantage. Just as the first game was deliberately staged in Corinne on July 4, the second contest was intentionally scheduled in Salt Lake to coincide with the commemoration of the arrival of the main body of Mormon pioneers into the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. (Because July 24 fell on Sunday, celebrations were held on Monday.) Although the Corinne-Ennea game was not part of the official

²⁴*Daily Utah Reporter*, July 14, 1870.

²⁵*Daily Utah Reporter*, July 12, 1870. To accommodate Corinnethians who wanted to witness "the great match game," Dennis Toohy, C.B.B.C. president, secured special half-price rates for the train trip to Salt Lake; to the surprise of railroad officials, Corinne fans filled three excursion cars instead of one as anticipated. *Utah Daily Reporter*, July 21, 26, 1870. The club traveled by rail after plans to charter the steamer *Kate Connor* for the trip to Salt Lake City via the Great Salt Lake fell through. *Daily Utah Reporter*, July 8, 1870.